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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/427,388	10/26/1999	KEVIN LLOYD GRIMES	RCA-89.086	3105
24498	7590	12/29/2004	EXAMINER	
THOMSON MULTIMEDIA LICENSING INC			HARPER, KEVIN C	
JOSEPH S TRIPOLI			ART UNIT	
PO BOX 5312			PAPER NUMBER	
2 INDEPENDENCE WAY			2666	
PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			DATE MAILED: 12/29/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/427,388

Applicant(s)

GRIMES ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin C. Harper

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 10-12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed August 9, 2004, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-12 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. Examiner agrees with applicant that Barton does not specifically disclose multiple input streams of different formats received at the input module 101.

However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Eyer et al. (US 5,982,411).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and

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invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Eyer et al. (US 5,982,411).

1. Regarding claims 1 and 3, Eyer discloses an adaptive transport decoder (fig. 2) comprising a source of a first stream of packets (item 240) having a first transport protocol (col. 7, line 61 through col. 8, line 6; col. 10, lines 59-63), a source of a second stream of packets (item 250) having a second transport protocol (col. 8, lines 8-13; col. 8, lines 13-17). A protocol decoder (item 265) is coupled to the first and second packet stream sources and extracts the respective payloads from the packets (col. 7, lines 63-65; col. 8, lines 5-7) from a selected one of the first and second packet sources (col. 9, lines 33-36 and 43-56). Further regarding claim 3, the protocol decoder is a processor (col. 7, lines 63-65) responsive to control programs for extracting payloads from respective transport streams. The protocol decoder inherently had a third control program for switching between the first control program and the second control program (col. 9, lines 33-42).

2. Although it appears that the decoding is inherently different for the received digital terrestrial signal (i.e., standardized ATSC) and the received digital satellite signal (i.e., proprietary DSS or standardized DBS), it would be obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have different digital processing in the invention of Eyer for the respective digital formats in order to properly decode the audio, video and data within the packets of these different digital formats.

Claims 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eyer et al. as applied to claim 3 above, and further in view of Yu (US 5,410,709).

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3. Regarding claims 4-9, Eyer does not disclose that the first and second control programs comprise a packet handler, several interrupt drivers and an interrupt vector containing a pointer to an interrupt driver, and reallocating a buffer. Yu discloses a controlling system (Figure 1) that has interrupt vectors for pointing to stored control information (col. 4, line 67 through col. 5, line 7) and user information (Figure 2b). The control programs are chosen using a third control program (col. 5, lines 10-15) and a buffer is reallocated (Figure 3a, step MLX DR., "index into interrupt"). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have a interrupt drivers and interrupt vectors for pointing to memory locations and reallocate memory locations to a buffer in the invention of Eyer in order to appropriately invoke control information at designated times.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 10-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

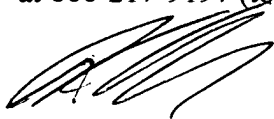
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Harper whose telephone number is 571-272-3166. The examiner can normally be reached weekdays from 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema S. Rao, can be reached at 571-272-3174. The centralized fax number for the Patent Office is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only (applications must be associated with a customer number). For more information about the PAIR system, see portal.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kevin C. Harper

December 27, 2004



FRANK DUONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER